

Eagles and Falsehoods © Xen.

Once lived a Great Eagle. With immense strength, majesty and beauty, it flew over earth forests; beings great and small admired the eagle, all but one small sparrow. The sparrow would perch jealously watching the eagle while cursing Great Spirit for not giving it such magnificence. By the by, an illness befell the eagle and it could not fly. Grounded, it was vulnerable to harmful forces avoided in flight. Soon Great Eagle wearied from lack of sleep, food and constant vigilance to danger. Great Eagle was sad and lonely that no one came to inquire of it. Watching this, the crafty sparrow said, "Ah, now I can steal the eagle's undeserved glory!" Finding a fallen eagle feather, the sparrow wore it to cloak her true nature and identity. Disguised, false eagle-sparrow flew to befriend the grounded eagle; falsely presenting herself as an eagle and friend, she soon cooed Great Eagle's trust with stolen 'love offerings' of food, deceptions and lies. Disguised sparrow convinced a very tired Great Eagle that sleep would mend it to soon resume flight and safety of high trees. As gesture of loving friendship, false eagle-sparrow said, 'eat then sleep, I will bravely guard and protect you against threats of harm.' Great Eagle gratefully trusted false eagle-sparrow, ate the offering then fell into a very deep sleep while its spirit visited The Immortal Ones in dream-time. False eagle-sparrow gloated over the fallen Great Eagle's beauty that would soon be hers. At a distance hidden in a thicket, watched an old wolf tormented by ravenous hunger, pondering a painful and starving appetite. False eagle spotted the wolf; she flew to perch upon a branch above it and from a safe distance said, "Wolf, you look famished." 'Yes, I am' replied the wolf, "come closer for a better look little sparrow." 'Oh, no' said she, 'I am too small to satisfy. However, Great Eagle is sleeping on the ground. It is much larger than I and lies totally disarmed to your advances should you choose to feast upon him...' With ravenous fury, the wolf seized upon sleeping Great Eagle and ate it whole then retreated for rest behind a nearby shrub. With body gone, Great Eagle's spirit remains in dream world nevermore returning to earth realm. False eagle-sparrow, thinking it safe, flew and landed in the spot where Great Eagle once rested. Absent were Great Eagle's courage, beauty and spirit she hoped to steal through betrayal. All were gone! Rage overcame and blinded false eagle-sparrow to not see the wolf pounce from hiding and devour her in one, brief, gulp. Remains of Great Eagle and false eagle-sparrow rested together briefly in a wolf's belly before wolf dung returned them to mother and father earth. False eagle-sparrow's abomination is forewarning to all earth beings that betrayal has consequences - especially when one of a naive faith is without choice but to trust the betrayer. False eagle-sparrow's spirit of betrayal and falsehood remain as filth beneath the

feet of all earth creatures; Great Eagle's pure spirit majestically flies with The Immortal Ones over Great Spirit forests – forevermore.